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Scientist To Aid S.I.G.A.P.

American scientist Dr. Frank B. Salisbury, Head of the Plant Science Department at Utah State University, is to be a consultant to S.I.G.A.P.

In a letter I received from him a couple of weeks ago he said he would be "most happy" to examine our more noteworthy sighting reports and give us his opinion as to whether the objects seen can be explained away by conventional phenomena, or were in fact genuine U.F.O.s.

Dr. Salisbury is one of the few scientists with an open mind towards U.F.O.s. Most scientists relegate the idea of spaceships visiting the Earth to the realms of science-fiction. Even those who think "there may be something in U.F.O.s" rarely stick their necks out and say so. For as Dr. Salisbury puts it: "Any favourable mention of the flying-saucer by a scientist amounts to extreme heresy and places the one making the statement in danger of excommunication by the scientific theocracy". He said in his letter that he spent the summer writing a book on U.F.O.s and hopes to do the final "polishing" on the manuscript before too long. I daresay he will let us know when the book is to be published.

Dr. Salisbury has written several thought-provoking articles on the possibilities of life existing elsewhere in the Universe. In fact his interest in U.F.O.s arose out of his studies of exobiology. A particularly interesting article by Dr. Salisbury is entitled: "The Scientist And The U.F.O.". It was published last year in the "BioScience" Journal. In it he states that if U.F.O.s are extra-terrestrial spaceships "they are of the most pressing interest to the exobiologist". And the possibility that they may be seems great enough, he says, for at least a preliminary scientific investigation. Dr. Salisbury goes on to ask: "Can we eliminate the spaceship hypothesis in any rigorous scientific manner?". He points out that the problem can be approached in two ways. Either it must be proven that not one of the thousands of U.F.O.s reported could have possibly been a craft from another world, or it has to be shown that it is impossible for alien beings to visit us. Says Dr. Salisbury: "Obviously we cannot show in every case that a purported U.F.O. was not an extra-terrestrial spaceship. The data may not be available and the events cannot be repeated. Furthermore, in several instances, very detailed data does exist in relation to a sighting, and yet it cannot be rigorously stated that the U.F.O. was not an extra-terrestrial machine. It is also logically unreasonable to say with absolute certainty that it is impossible for extra-terrestrial beings to visit us. Although we know a great deal about the Universe we do not yet know enough to make such an all-inclusive negative statement".

Flying Saucer Fiasco

Soon the Colorado University U.F.O. Committee will issue its long awaited report. Surely a properly conducted unbiased research group could issue only one verdict - that U.F.O.s do exist and that many of them defy logical explanation and could well be spacecraft from another world.

Regrettably this will not be. The report, when it is issued, will undoubtedly hit the headlines. But I doubt very much if it turns out to be worth the paper it's written on.

During recent months the committee has been in chaos. Dr. David Saunders, Co-Principal Investigator, and Dr. Norman Levine, Research Associate, have both been sacked. Dr. Edward U. Condon, who is supposed to be running the committee, told the "Colorado Daily" that they had been dismissed for incompetence, but declined to comment further. The real reason for their dismissal however, was because they revealed to Dr. James McDonald, University of Arizona atmospheric physicist, that the whole project was a cover-up; a trick to convince the public that U.F.O.s were not extra-terrestrial spacecraft. It has also been rumoured in various quarters that certain committee members have resigned over the sacking of Drs. Saunders and Levine.

The committee concluded its "investigation" in June/July, after "examining" 1,500 U.F.O. reports. Now the thesis, for what it's worth, is being compiled.

There have been various clashes between the committee and Dr. McDonald, who leans strongly to the view that U.F.O.s are spaceships from another world. If the committee's report states that U.F.O.s are nothing more than hallucinations on the part of witnesses or atmospheric phenomena, we can expect sparks to fly.

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The circulation of the S.I.G.A.P. Bulletin topped 100 last month for the first time. This is an increase of 20% on the previous best figure and is undoubtedly due to the facelift which the bulletin has been given. Two letters have been received by S.I.G.A.P. praising the "new look", plus many verbal comments.

The first letter was from Judy Williams of Contact U.K. (Bristol Branch). She writes: "Let me congratulate S.I.G.A.P. on their new look newsletter. It's beautifully duplicated. Do you do it yourselves or have it done professionally?". The other one was from Mrs. Kathleen Smith, Editor of U.F.O.L.O.G., published by The Isle of Wight U.F.O. Investigation Society. She says: "I congratulate you on your new look bulletin. I think it is very good indeed. My best wishes for your hoped for magazine". The Editor takes this opportunity of thanking everyone for their kind words.

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A general talk on U.F.O.s was given by S.I.G.A.P. Chairman Omar Fowler to members of Sanderstead Young Conservatives on October 9.

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Three more people have joined S.I.G.A.P. They are:

Mr. Douglas Palmer, of Elm Cottage, 90 Westfield Road, Woking.
Mr. John Bostock, of "Harfield", 30 Loop Road, Woking.
Mr. Robert Francis, of 59 West Close, Fernhurst, Haslemere.

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Two more letters have been received from foreign U.F.O. societies. The first, addressed to S.I.G.A.P. Foreign Correspondent Keith Burnett, was from the Canadian Aerial Phenomena Research Organisation. The second one was from the Australian U.F.O. Investigation Centre, and received by the Editor.

Canadian Aerial Phenomena Research Organisation
(C.A.P.R.O.)

P.O. Box 1316, Winnipeg 1, Manitoba, Canada.

"Thank you for your interesting bulletin. We will be happy to reciprocate by placing your name on our mailing list for future editions of our publication.

"As you may know, C.A.P.R.O. is the Canadian affiliate of the Aerial Phenomena Research Organisation of Tucson, Arizona, and we are the largest U.F.O. study group in Canada. Our basic aims coincide with those of our parent organisation A.P.R.O., however, we operate independently and publish our own bulletin, concentrating on U.F.O. activities in Canada.

"The year 1967 proved to be the heaviest in Canada as far as U.F.O. reports were concerned. Again in 1968 we are encountering another large wave, although not on the scale of the 1967 flap.

"We sincerely look forward to future information from your group in a mutual exchange of information, and if we can ever be of service to you, please feel free to write anytime".

Signed: Brian C. Cannon/Director.

U.F.O. Investigation Centre

19 Hurlstone Avenue, Hurlstone Park, Sydney, N.S.W. 2193, Australia.

"Very pleased to receive your letter. I have put your name on our free mailing list, which comprises well over 150 societies all over the world, and posted by sea-mail a copy of our last newsletter, No. 20.

"Trusting you would like to know something about our society herewith some facts. Founded in 1950-51 and with close to 600 members, we are the oldest and largest group of its kind in Australia. We regard the U.F.O. problem seriously and scientifically and are in touch with quite a number of scientists all over the world. Naturally, every member has the right to look at U.F.O. matters in any way he or she desires.

"Our publications go back to 1953. Besides the newsletter mentioned above, six times a year we publish a review. No. 10, 60 or so pages, will be out shortly and you will get a copy in due course. You are at fullest liberty to quote anything from our publications, with credit given to U.F.O.I.C.

"We are looking forward to receiving your own publication for our extensive library, comprising about 150 different items from all over the world. A quite active Junior Section, over 70 strong, holds its own monthly meetings. Otherwise, there are monthly meetings alternating between public and members' meetings. We are in touch with about half a dozen groups in the U.K. I trust that will do for now, hope to hear soon from you".

Signed: William E. Moser, J.P.,
Secretary.

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MEETINGS: Three important U.F.O. meetings took place during October. The first was the monthly B.U.F.O.R.A. meeting held in Kensington Central Library on October 5. It was attended by S.I.G.A.P. Chairman Omar Fowler, and his wife Jean, Secretary Dick Beet, Editor Ron Toft and ordinary member Mike Prewett. The guest speaker on this occasion was that well-known journalist and U.F.O. researcher Arthur Shuttlewood. He outlined what had been happening in Warminster since the memorable "flap" of 1965. Although very little had appeared in the national press about U.F.O.s over Warminster and the surrounding district during the past couple of years, sightings were still being reported - at the rate of at least one a week - he told the attentive audience. Arthur Shuttlewood's three-man U.F.O. team have taken more than 3,500 photos of Warminster "saucers". Of these, 100 were successfully developed. He went on to say that the evidence for the existence of extra-terrestrial spacecraft was overwhelming. The fact that visitors from space were watching our every move was "undeniable". Many members will probably remember Arthur Shuttlewood's first U.F.O. book: "The Warminster Mystery". Well he has just brought out another one now. It is called "Warnings From Flying Friends" (26/-). Some of the exciting topics discussed are: the space probes in orbit around the Earth which have never been launched by either the Russians or Americans, secrets of a crashed U.F.O., and speculation as to the method of propulsion employed in "saucers".

B.U.F.O.R.A.'s 1968 Northern Convention was held at the Friends Meeting House, Manchester, on October 12, under the auspices of the Direct Investigation Group on Aerial Phenomena (D.I.G.A.P.) This was attended by S.I.G.A.P. Chairman Omar Fowler. Here is his report on the convention: "The morning programme began with Norman Oliver of B.U.F.O.R.A. giving a talk on "Experiences of Contact Claims". He mentioned a case not too distant. Earlier this year a woman at Horsham had apparently been receiving messages from a U.F.O. and she was told to question her husband, an electronics engineer, on various subjects. He in turn asked his wife technical questions on electronics and she was able to answer them through her U.F.O. contact. It was a most interesting lecture. The afternoon began with the news that two of the speakers were unable to attend. Their positions were hastily filled by Roger Stanway (co-author of "The Flying Saucer Report"), who spoke of investigations carried out in the Staffordshire area, and myself. I gave a talk on U.F.O.'s over Surrey, with the aid of S.I.G.A.P. member Dan Butcher's paintings. Both of us were received enthusiastically by the audience. The meeting ended with a questions and answers session conducted by a panel of experts. Many groups from all over the country had exhibits at the convention. These varied from sectioned meteorites to an invitation to invest in Lunic Enterprises Ltd., who incidentally, had their last "saucer" held up by string, according to a national newspaper report!".

The third meeting last month was S.I.G.A.P.'s own one, held at the Plastic Coatings Factory, Guildford on October 15. Some 25 people turned up to hear Jimmy Goddard, of Contact U.K., give an

interesting talk on "Leys and Orthoteny". A ley is an alignment of pre-historic monuments and earthworks across miles of countryside. Leys can be found throughout Britain, even using the rigorous rule of not allowing any alignment with less than five pre-historic points on it exactly. Writes Jimmy Goddard in his "Handbook of Leys and Orthoteny": "They will travel for miles, sometimes from coast to coast, cutting through ancient monuments or sites in every area they pass through. Also, they will form radiating patterns, sometimes as many as ten leys meeting at one point (which is called a "ley centre"). The temples of Stonehenge and Avebury both have ten leys passing through them, and Arbor Low, a stone circle in Derbyshire, is reputed to have fifty". Jimmy Goddard goes on later to describe the mystery of orthoteny. "Ever since 1947 the flying-saucer has been a thorn in the side of the orthodox scientist, but until 1954 he had a good reason for not taking any interest in the phenomenon. The reason was, of course, that the sightings were not repeatable. A person would see one, perhaps only for a few seconds, maybe a little longer; but always the apparition would have vanished before any scientific investigation could be made. To be accepted by science as a fact, any phenomenon must necessarily be repeatable or show some kind of pattern, and until 1954 the erratic U.F.O.s did not fulfil any of these requirements. The only thing that could possibly be done was to take the reports of witnesses and note them down; but even this was not truly scientific, for testimony is really the field of the lawyer and not the scientist. But, despite what he may tell you to the contrary, the scientist has not got this excuse now. On September 17, 1954 it vanished forever with the discovery of the first "orthoteny". Orthotemies are alignments, or, more strictly speaking, great circle courses, plotted by taking U.F.O. sightings (usually during a "flap", the term used for a concentration of sightings) that occur within any particular day. They were first discovered by Aime Michel (a French scientist) during the great French flap of 1954, which, lasting just a month (from September 17 to October 17), was one of the greatest in modern U.F.O. history and forms the basis for Michel's book "Flying Saucers and the Straight Line Mystery". In it he tells of how he first discovered orthoteny after his friend the poet Jean Cocteau had told him to see whether the objects moved along certain lines or traced out patterns. He tried this out with sightings on September 17 at the beginning of the flap, and found his first orthoteny, stretching from Canon through Clermont-Ferrand and Chaudolas to terminate at Rome". During his talk Jimmy Goddard showed S.I.G.A.P. members by means of maps, some of the more important leys which cross the country. It was surprising to notice that many U.F.O. sightings had been reported on the lines of leys.

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Now that the S.I.G.A.P. Bulletin is starting to give more space to foreign U.F.O. sightings, a big drive is under way to establish contact with ufologists round the world. We hope to have at least one correspondent in all the major countries, so that if any U.F.O. wave occurs, like it did recently in Argentina, we will get full details. This will take a bit of time and full coverage of foreign sightings will not be possible for a few months.

We would be extremely grateful if any member who can speak a language - especially German, Spanish and Russian - would drop us a line. We don't want to make contact with a foreign U.F.O. researcher if we can't translate the reports he may send. It would be extremely useful to know: how many linguists we have in the group.

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S.I.G.A.P.'s next meeting will be held on November 12 at the Plastic Coatings Factory, Guildford, starting at 8 p.m. Colour slides of Dan Butcher's excellent U.F.O. paintings will be shown.

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There will be a special U.F.O. section at The Daily Mail's New Year Show, to be held at the Empire Hall, Olympia, between December 28 and January 11. Among the many items on show will be B.U.F.O.R.A.'s detecting van, a model of a typical U.F.O., and S.I.G.A.P.'s now famous U.F.O. paintings, done by Dan Butcher. If any members would like to man the exhibits at some time during the show, will they please let Omar Fowler know as soon as possible.

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+ U. F. O. s: T H E L O C A L S C E N E +
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A brilliant white light, described as "smaller than the moon", but "much bigger than a star", was seen by two West Ewell, Surrey, residents at approximately 10.50 p.m. on September 17.

The object oscillated from circular to bone-shaped at a frequency of about once per second and was so bright that it attracted their attention through the window of a well lit room. It first appeared directly above the chimney pots of a house opposite. Some five minutes later it had lurched and zig-zagged its way through a horizontal distance of about 10° and out of sight behind some trees. The night was cold but very clear and the observers have never seen anything similar before or since this occurrence. The observers' names and addresses have been omitted at their request.

(Credit: Mr. D. I. Simpson, Chairman of the Society for the Investigation of Unidentified Flying Object Phenomena).

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Two lights in the sky which were "definitely not aeroplanes or headlamps" were seen by engineer Mr. Neil Meredith (22), of 93 Tartar Road, Cobham, between 11.15 p.m. and 11.35 p.m. on October 21.

Says Mr. Meredith in his report to S.I.G.A.P.: "Three of us (the other witnesses were Mr. T. Stedman, of 22 Old Common Road, Cobham, and Mr. M. Martin, of 24 Old Common Road, Cobham) were standing by Portsmouth Road, Cobham when I noticed two lights in the sky at an angle of about 45° behind a slight cloud. This cloud was the only one on the horizon; the rest of the sky was clear. The brighter of the lights was at the top of the cloud and the dimmer one in the middle of the cloud. They moved across the cloud from side to side, never once coming out from behind the edge of the cloud. When the top one moved the dimmer one moved to the position the other light had taken. After five minutes a third light joined the others and moved around them. A few minutes later all three moved away to the right and disappeared. After phoning your Guildford number we stood outside the phone box and a white ball shot across the horizon leaving a trail as far as the eye could see. It was like a continuous long thin cloud. We watched for five minutes more and nothing more was seen; then the two lights re-appeared in about the same position as they were before, but much fainter. Then they disappeared".

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A number of mysterious zig-zagging lights have been seen in the sky in the High Wycombe, Beaconsfield and Gerrards Cross area. The Ministry of Defence has told villagers that the lights are nothing more than aircraft operating from London (Heathrow) Airport.

But this explanation does not satisfy Mr. E. M. Walker, of Hill Farm, Hazlemere, near High Wycombe. He claims that one object had a hoop around its centre, was noiseless, hovered for a long time and then shot off at a terrific speed. No aircraft can do this Mr. Walker points out.

News from abroad.....and odds and ends: S.I.G.A.P. has heard from a person recently returned from the U.S.A. that U.F.O. activity is still very much in the news there. A yellow globe of light with a point on one side was seen by a large number of people in the town of Auburn (State of Washington) during early August. The object was observed for about a week, appearing at roughly the same time each evening. It was reported by local radio stations as a U.F.O. The object was widely discussed and the lack of interest shown by the U.S.A.F. caused some rebuke from the radio station announcers. A number of days passed before the Air Force arrived on the scene to investigate the incident.

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DUNDAS, Ontario, Canada - An object described as looking like a "box-kite" was observed two miles west of Dundas on April 7, by Mr. Fred Passmore. Mr. Passmore, a former R.C.A.F. pilot in World War II, spotted the U.F.O. at approximately noon while pruning fruit trees on his farm. He was watching for a plane carrying his two sons on an air-cadet training flight. As the plane passed over his farm Mr. Passmore's attention was drawn suddenly to a second object which appeared to be beneath the plane. It was box-shaped, orange in the centre, and black toward the edges. As the object appeared under the plane, Mr. Passmore had the impression it was hovering. However, as the plane passed out of sight the object continued in a westerly direction and took from three to four seconds to pass from view completely. The sky was clear, the sun shining and the viewing conditions excellent. Mr. Gordon Gee, shift supervisor at the Malton Airport weather office said he knew of no rational explanation for the U.F.O. Said Mr. Passmore: "It was nothing that exists, as far as I know, in our arsenal".

(Credit: Canadian Aerial Phenomena Research Organisation).

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A large atmospheric disturbance was recorded at Aberdeen University on October 15. Experts said it could have been either the explosion of a five-megaton H-bomb, a huge meteorite, or a large rocket exploding on its launching pad.

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A school cycle shed at Writtle, Sussex, was struck by a thunderbolt on September 23. The shed flew across a road and smashed into a house. Said village policeman Tony Parker: "A huge ball of fire fell from the sky exploding like a bomb on the shed".

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Another U.F.O. group has been formed. Called COS-MOS, it commences operations on January 1, 1969. It aims to contact saucers and their crew. It will concentrate on two objectives:

1. Obtaining details of British contacts of all types, be they with spacemen or spacecraft, physical or mental, or indeed any form of contact whatsoever.
2. To attempt to make contact, specific study groups being set up to examine all possible methods whereby this end may be attained.

Membership is £1-1-0d per year. Write to: Mr. Norman Oliver, Director of COS-MOS, 95 Taunton Road, London S.E.12.
